

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because certain reference numbers appear on the drawings with reference to more than one item. The Examiner also objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include certain reference numbers mentioned in the specification and include certain reference numbers not mentioned in the specification. Additionally, the Examiner objected to minor informalities in the abstract as well as the specification. Further, the Examiner objected to claims 1-10 due to minor claim informalities. Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Anderson et al. 2003/0168875.

Each of these objections and rejections is addressed individually below.

The Objections To The Drawings:

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because certain reference numbers were utilized in the drawings to designate more than one structure. The Examiner also objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include certain reference numbers mentioned in the description. The Examiner further objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include certain reference number not mentioned in the description.

Initially, the Examiner stated that reference numbers 304, 316, 318 are not referenced in the specification. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and directs the Examiner's attention to paragraph [0038] of the specification. It is therefore submitted that these objections to the drawings should be withdrawn. However, proposed corrected drawings curing all of the remaining informalities are being submitted herewith. It is therefore submitted that all the objections to the drawings have been overcome.

The Objections To The Specification:

The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure because the language is not clear and concise. The abstract has been corrected above in accordance with the

Examiner's suggestions. It is therefore submitted that the objections to the abstract have been overcome.

The Examiner also objected to the specification due to minor informalities. These informalities have been corrected as set forth above and it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the specification have also been overcome.

The Objections To The Claims:

The Examiner objected to claims 1-10 due to some minor informalities. These minor informalities have been corrected as set forth above. It is therefore submitted that the objections to the claims have been overcome.

The Section 102(a) Claim Rejections:

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by Anderson et al. 2003/0168875.

Each of the independent claims (Nos. 1, 11, and 19) requires a method of interchanging modules across multiple vehicle lines. In other words, a module can be attached to a modular vehicle attachment system in a first vehicle and then detached from that modular vehicle attachment system and coupled to a vehicle attachment system disposed in a separate and discrete second vehicle, which vehicles are of different makes or models.

The Anderson et al. reference merely discloses a method of interchanging components within a single vehicle – not from one vehicle to another and certainly not from one vehicle of one model to another vehicle of another model. Applicant's claimed invention provides significant advantages over Anderson et al. because it allows a modular vehicle attachment system of a single configuration to be constructed for multiple vehicle makes and/or models. The system in Anderson et al. appears to be suited only for a single vehicle.

It is therefore submitted that all pending claims define over the Anderson et al. reference and that the section 102(a) claims should be withdrawn.

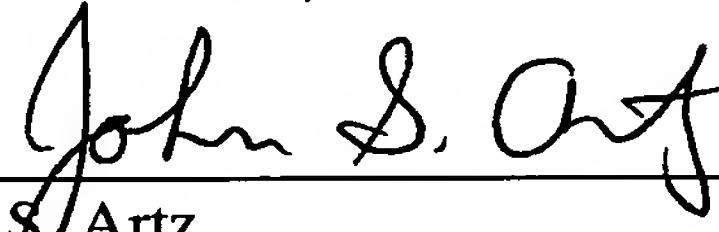
Conclusion:

It is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections of record have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner should have any questions, he is urged to contact the undersigned at 248-223-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 16, 2004